

Agenda Date: 3/3/04  
Agenda Item: VII A



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
**Two Gateway Center**  
**Newark, NJ 07102**  
[www.bpu.state.nj.us](http://www.bpu.state.nj.us)

Customer Assistance

IN THE MATTER OF YVONNE RICKARD )  
AND ROY CAVALIERE, PETITIONERS, v. )  
SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY, )  
RESPONDENT )

ORDER ADOPTING  
INITIAL DECISION

BPU Docket No. GC03100746U  
OAL Docket No. PUC 8754-03

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On October 1, 2003, Yvonne Rickard and Roy Cavaliere (Petitioners) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) for a hearing in regard to a billing dispute with South Jersey Gas Company (Respondent). On November 6, 2003, Respondent filed an answer.

The Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for determination and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. It was filed on December 4, 2003, and assigned to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Joseph F. Fidler.

During the pendency of this matter at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and executed a Stipulation of Settlement. The settlement was submitted to the ALJ for review. On January 22, 2004, ALJ Fidler filed his Initial Decision with the Board, recommending that the settlement be approved. The ALJ found the settlement to be voluntary, consistent with the law and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy. The ALJ therefore concluded that the settlement met the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

The settlement provides that Respondent will credit Petitioners' account in the amount of \$556.17, in full settlement of this matter.

After review, the Board FINDS that the terms of the settlement are fair and reasonable. Therefore, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision and Stipulation of Settlement in their entirety, incorporating the terms thereof into this final decision as if fully set forth at length herein.

DATED: 3/3/04

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

SIGNED

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JEANNE M. FOX  
PRESIDENT

SIGNED

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FREDERICK F. BUTLER  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

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CAROL J. MURPHY  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

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CONNIE O. HUGHES  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

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JACK ALTER  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SIGNED

KRISTI IZZO  
SECRETARY

Yvonne Rickard and Roy Cavaliere v. South Jersey Gas Company

BPU Dkt. No. GC03100746U

OAL Dkt. No. PUC 8754-03

**SERVICE LIST**

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